



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

Man charged in ICE probe into hoax bomb threat against U.S. Embassy in Philippines

LAS VEGAS – A Las Vegas man has been indicted on charges stemming from an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that he intentionally conveyed false information to federal authorities concerning a plot to bomb the United States Embassy in Manila.

Apolinar Agelio Tiu, 62, is charged with one count of conveying false information relating to explosive materials and one count of making a false statement involving terrorism. The sealed indictment was returned by the grand jury yesterday and unsealed this morning following Tiu's arrest in Las Vegas.

"This case marks the first time that an individual has been charged in the District of Nevada with conveying false information relating to shipping explosive materials and delivering and discharging explosives against a government facility," said U.S. Attorney Daniel G. Bogden. "Passed as part of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, this federal law is providing law enforcement officials with additional tools to investigate possible acts of terrorism."

"Making a false terrorist threat is a serious violation of law, draining our already overburdened public safety agencies and preventing them from pursuing real threats to our national security," said Steve Usiak, resident agent in charge of ICE's office of investigations in Las Vegas. "False statements made to federal authorities will eventually be discovered, especially by federal agents trained to investigate and uncover the truth."

The indictment alleges that on or about February 6, Tiu intentionally conveyed false information to a Department of Homeland Security employee on the agency's "TIPS" Line. The "TIPS Line" - [(888) HLS-TIPS] - is provided for the public to report information about possible terrorist activities. Tiu allegedly told the "TIPS" Line employee that he had information regarding two illegal aliens who were shipping computer printers and bombs to a terrorist organization called Abu Sayyaf Brigade on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. Tiu claimed the materials were potentially going to be used to bomb the United States Embassy in Manila, when, in fact, he knew the statements were false.

If convicted, Tiu faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for conveying false information, and up to eight years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on the false statement count.

ICE